

THE BROKEN COIN

By EMERSON HOUGH.

(Continued from Yesterday.)

"Read, then," demanded Count Frederick. "What is it that you have found?" It was natural for men to obey his voice when he spoke thus.

"It is strange and wonderful—it is incredible!" said the prime minister.

Count Frederick caught in turn the parchment in his hands. In turn his own face showed an agonizing smile.

"Your majesty," said he, smiling at length as he turned toward the covering figure in the corner of the room, "I shall call you that for the last time." Michael had one last show of resentment, summing such resolution as he could to his own blotted fact. "What do you mean—treason in the presence of the king?"

"Not treason, for you are not our king."

A sudden, heavy silence fell upon all in that room. It was long before the solemn tones of Count Frederick were over.

"These," said he, "are the imperial scripts of Michael the First of Gretzhofer. They were buried with his treasures. His son, the last of the Gretzhofer, was established. Rumor was that King Michael died like a king, in his own bed. The truth was otherwise. He was murdered here in the vaults below by the men of his own kin."

"If that be true—and as God is my witness, I believe it to be true—then we well may guess which boy was brought up under the regent to take the throne."

"That boy is not your other, native, relative of mine, reared me, as you know, until I am what you know."

"And yonder man—this drunken waster—not even the son of lawful wedlock never the son of a king—was that boy?"

"The boy accepted as your king."

"Treason, you say—why, there was treason to every human being who lived on Gretzhofer soil, when that pretender took the throne!"

(Concluded Tomorrow.)

Dynamite Ship in Peril of Winter Ice

Northeast Bicycle Exchange, 506 H St. N. E.

Men and boys who want bicycles for work or pleasure can buy grade, slightly used bicycles from 32 to 50 dollars per week.

EHRAND BOY, with wheel, G. L. HUSKE OPTICAL CO., 1429 H St. N. W.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22—Living off Staten Island is a German steamship with a cargo of British nitro-glycerine and no passengers. She exploded when the vessel, dodging British cruisers off Sandy Hook, reached the safety of this port soon after the war started.

But the German captain can't sell the nitro because he is turned toward him. There was nothing on those same features of navigation, or intelligent direction. His wife was carried with him in his own conviction as to their truth.

"Listen, gentlemen," said he, gently at last. "Great things have happened to us in our realm. We will say what we say, our king, I believe. I am ready."

At these words they made no answer. There was nothing on those same features of navigation, or intelligent direction. His wife was carried with him in his own conviction as to their truth.

"Listen, gentlemen," said he, gently at last. "Great things have happened to us in our realm. We will say what we say, our king, I believe. I am ready."

"Shall I then read?"

He turned from one to another and the lips of none spoke audibly the words which their eyes gave him. He read:

"In the name of God, amen! I, Michael of Gretzhofer, have this script with the treasure of the kingdom which I have sealed herewith beneath the floor of the torture chamber. With them I place the secret governing the ownership of the treasures of this kingdom. That secret is known only to myself and my bodyguards, who has been a faithful man—Horus Rolen.

"For now these many months I have been cognizant of dangers at the hands of my own foster brother Stanislaw. Should he ever learn of my secret, he would be my master, my life my forfeit, but not the treasures themselves."

"It was my pleasure to have made a medal or a coin which should be the token of this secret. What my bodyguards—Horus, Horus, a faithful man—had planned the burial of these treasures, I gave him the indenture, the half of a certain coin or medal which I caused to be made and inscribed as the word of the hidden plan, of that which we were about to do. Upon the face of that medal or coin this inscription was written: 'Sui pavimenti—anguli—vergentis—crucis—camerum—repteriorum—theatreum—Regis trionfalis.'

"So shall be preserved the hiding place of that which is the people's. Somewhere there shall exist, even though I shall die, this record. Half of it I have given into the charge of the bodyguards, who are to be faithful. At my death he is to take both halves and guard them well."

"Should I be slain, as well may be in these troublous and treacherous times in which I live, my wish and command is that he should be my successor. Michael the Second, and that he shall take from me the rule of this kingdom in his day, and the administration of these properties of the kingdom."

"It is my wish and command, my hope and my prayer, that he shall govern wisely with justice to all, firmly and with wisdom."

"There may be a long regency before my son shall reach the age of maturity. There is another older brother, Michael the Second, and that he shall take from me the rule of this kingdom in his day, and the administration of these properties of the kingdom."

"It is my wish and command, my hope and my prayer, that he shall govern wisely with justice to all, firmly and with wisdom."

"In the name of God, amen! Michael, the Second, and that he shall take from me the rule of this kingdom in his day, and the administration of these properties of the kingdom."

"It is my wish and command, my hope and my prayer, that he shall govern wisely with justice to all, firmly and with wisdom."

"In the name of God, amen! Michael,

"Below this signature of Michael the Good," said he, "I have measured the voice of Count Frederick, 'there is another signature—Michael the Second.' Gentlemen, there is no secret, no secret of mine, and there are two more."

A sign of wonder, almost of consternation, came from those assembled. The only protest was from the huddled object in the farther corner of the room, where still remained Michael, the dead.

"What then, the guard?" he shrieked.

"Treason to me—after him, men! This pretender—what is that he says? What proof has he?—what proof?"

"This proof, sir!" said Count Frederick, rising and approaching him the broad sweep of the marshalled sheet.

Michael gazed stupidly at what he saw, uncomprehending. Others gazed also, and at first could make nothing of what there was. Count Frederick was silent. He sat, pale, with the unmistakable mark that little one always left when he had drawn his thumb in the blood.

"I recall that I saw him place beneath the great seal that other seal—done in his own blood. I saw him draw the blood from his own arm and put his thumb in it, and place it here, thus sealing this document with the unmistakable mark of the one whom he has wronged."

"Gentlemen, who then is your king?"

Even yet they could not grasp the full significance of what they heard, and again the voice of Count Frederick resumed:

"Good, gentlemen, send out your agents quickly. Bring here those men of science skilled in the reading of such things as these. It was Berthold who developed the science of metallurgy; he was the man who was shown that each man carries with him, in his person, from his cradle to his grave, that unmistakable seal which identifies him infallibly."

"Now, gentlemen, send out your agents quickly. Bring here those men of science skilled in the reading of such things as these. It was Berthold who developed the science of metallurgy; he was the man who was shown that each man carries with him, in his person, from his cradle to his grave, that unmistakable seal which identifies him infallibly."

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